

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03693 181254Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /070 W

----- 001732

R 181222Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR TH MY

SUBJECT: KIDNAP AND RELEASE OF MALAYSIAN POLICEMAN

SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES PAID RANSOM FOR MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPED FEBRUARY 8 BY BANDITS IN SONGKHLA PROVINCE, SOUTHERN THAILAND. SUPERINTENDENT RELEASED FEBRUARY 11. END SUMMARY.

1. A MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AND A THAI TEENAGER WERE KIDNAPPED ON FEBRUARY 8 BY BANDITS IN SADAO DISTRICT, SONGKHLA PROVINCE. BANGKOK POST REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 12 THAT THE BANDITS WERE MUSLIMS WHO RELEASED THE POLICEMAN AND THE BOY ON FEBRUARY 11 AFTER THE BOY'S FATHER SECRETLY PAID RANSOM. THE POST ALSO REPORTED THAT "POLICE BELIEVED THAT MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES ALSO PAID RANSOM FOR THE RELEASE OF THE POLICEMAN" ALTHOUGH THE EXACT AMOUNT PAID FOR THE POLICEMAN'S RELEASE WAS NOT KNOWN BUT ESTIMATED BETWEEN \$5,000 AND \$10,000. THE MALAYSIAN POLICEMAN, ACCORDING TO THE POST ACCOUNT, SAID HE WAS BEATEN UP BY THE BANDITS AND FORCED TO ADMIT HE WAS A POLICE OFFICER, BUT THE POLICEMAN TOLD THE BANDITS HE WAS ONLY A CUSTOMS OFFICIAL BECAUSE "IF HE TOLD THEM HE IS A POLICE OFFICER (SIC), THE RANSOM WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03693 181254Z

2. CONSULATE IN SONGKHLA REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT A

MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL CONFIDED THAT GOM DID PAY RANSOM BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAP (\$5,008) AND THEY WERE WORRIED THAT SINCE THE SPECIAL BRANCH POLICEMAN WAS HELD IN A MALAYSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AREA (MCP) THE MCP MIGHT GET HOLD OF HIM. THE POLICEMAN WAS GRABBED BY MISTAKE, ACCORDING TO THE CONSULATE, BY GANGSTERS WAITING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT ON THE PENANG-HAAD YAI HIGHWAY TO KIDNAP A LOCAL CHINESE MERCHANT. THIS GANSTER GROUP IS THE SAME ONE THAT KIDNAPPED SEVERAL MALAYSIANS LAST MONTH IN PERLIS FOR RANSOM. THE CONSULATE IS WORRIED THAT IF WORD GETS OUT TO VARIOUS GANGSTER GROUPS THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE PAYTING RANSOMS, IT MAY BE OPEN SEASON FOR CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN SONGKHLA.

3. A SINGAPORE EMBASSY OFFICIAL QUERIED ON THIS SUBJECT ON FEBRUARY 18 CONFIRMED THE GOM HAD PAID RANSOM FOR THE RELEASE OF THE POLICEMAN BUT WERE NOT PUBLICLY ADMITTING THEY HAD. THE SINGAPOREAN EXPLAINED THAT THE POLICEMAN, MONGKOL SAWASDIVIRO (BGN, MONGKON SAWATDIWIROT) IS THE BROTHER OF MALAYSIAN FIRST SECRETARY MAUNG BOON MEE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH IN BANGKOK, AND THEY ARE MIXED CHINESE/MALAY/ THAI. THE SINGAPOREAN OFFICIAL SAID THE GOM RATIONALIZED IT HAD TO PAY THE RANSOM TO ENSURE SPECIAL BRANCH MORALE AND BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THIS WAS A ONE TIME DEAL, A MISTAKE ON THE PART OF THE BANDITS WHO WOULD NOT REPEAT THE ACT, NOT WISHING TO STIR THAI AND MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT ANGER AND ACTION AGAINST THE BANDITS.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR COMMENTS ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS OF GOM ON INCIDENT AND RANSOM, AND FUTURE POLICY ON SUCH INCIDENTS. MALAYSIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON THE INCIDENT.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH, KIDNAPPING, POLICE FORCES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO03693
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760060-1147
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760241/aaaabjrh.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAP AND RELEASE OF MALAYSIAN POLICEMAN SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES PAID RANSOM FOR MALAYSIAN
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY, (MONGKON SAWTDIWIROT)
To: STATE KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006